

BENSON.

The New Year.—We may regret that the year 1910 should open in the excitements of a General Election. We should have preferred to enter it in a calmer atmosphere. Let us express the hope that while our parish is passing through this somewhat difficult and troubled period, there may be nothing to mar the happiness of a Happy New Year.

Foreign Missions.—Our annual meeting for the Gospel Society was held, in accordance with the announcement in the last Magazine, on Tuesday, December 14th. Mr. Haig's lecture on the city of Delhi and the mission work which is carried on there was illustrated by excellent lantern pictures and was full of interest, and we could have wished for a much larger audience.

The collection at the meeting was 13s. 4½d.; those on the previous Sunday amounted to £1 11s. 5½d.; and five boxes (Misses Ruck-Keene, Mr. Archer, Mrs. Cobb, Miss H. Field, and Mrs. Eason) contained £5 8s., the total being £7 12s 10d. After deducting the expense of lantern and carriage hire, 9s., the balance transmitted to the Society was £7 3s. 10d.

Miss Ruck-Keene's Working Party at The Paddock has also sent contributions of work to the S.P.G. Sale in London, which realised £5 10s. 10½d. for the Fund of the Women's Missionary Association.

Church Funds.—The Vicar and Churchwardens feel that it is very desirable to settle the Church accounts each year at Easter and not to allow an adverse balance to drift on year after year. With a view to this they issued a statement in December to the effect that the collections for this fund since last Easter had only amounted to £11 10s., and a further sum of £30 would be required, for which reason it would be necessary to appropriate the Christmas Day collections to this purpose.

They desire to acknowledge with thanks a donation of 5s. given anonymously for vestry chairs in response to the appeal in last month's Magazine.

The collections will be as follows on the Sundays in January:—2nd, Sick and Poor; 9th, Church Expenses; 16th, National Society for support of Church Schools; 23rd, Choir Fund; 30th, Church Expenses.

Baptisms.

Nov. 21st, Laura Frances Lovegrove (Benson).

Dec. 12th, Frank Tutty (Roke).

„ Queenie Alice Beale (Roke).

Burial,

Dec. 11th, Henry Spyer (Crowmarsh Battle), aged 43 years.

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Sunday School.—The children of the Sunday School were entertained at tea on Monday evening, January 24th, after which a Magic Lantern illustrated the stories of Alice in Wonderland and Three Little Nigger Boys, with a variety of other scenes, partly instructive and partly amusing.

We are much indebted to Miss Ruck-Keene for again encouraging the Sunday School children with a bountiful supply of prizes and presents.

Bible Society.—Our Annual Meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society was held in the Schoolroom on Tuesday evening, February 8th, the Vicar presiding. The Rev. A. H. Gaskell gave us one of his very interesting addresses upon the work of the Society, and a vote of thanks was cordially proposed by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Pettit. A sum of £1 1s. 4d. was collected at the meeting; the amount previously collected by the secretary was £4 0s. 6d., and the contents of two boxes were 5s.; making a total of £5 6s. 4d. Great regret was expressed at the announcement that Miss Maynard felt obliged to resign the duties of secretary which she had carried on very diligently and zealously for more than ten years.

Coal and Clothing Clubs.—Subscriptions: Mr. Stevenson, £2; Mr. Cozens, 35s.; Mr. Morris, 30s.; Mrs. Pulley, Miss Newton, Miss Ruck-Keene, and the late Mr. Wells, each £1; Mrs. Weatherby, 15s.; Mrs. Franklin, Rev. G. J. Davies, Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Frampton, Mr. Wood, Messrs. Field, Hawkins & Ponking, each 10/-; Mr. Caudwell, 7s. 6d.; Mrs. Deane, Mr. Badcock, Mr. Hall, each 5s.; Mrs. Croxton, Mrs. Dawson, Miss Jenkins, Miss Slade, Mr. Pettit, each 2s. 6d.; Mr. Hatt, 2s.; the Vicar (Blacknall's Charity), 3s. 4d. A bonus was given at the rate of 3s. 6d. on 12s. in the Coal Club and at the rate of 2s. on 10s. in the Clothing Club.

	Receipts.	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions (as above)	...	15	10	4
Coal Club Deposits	...	45	3	0
Clothing Do.	...	20	10	0
Savings Bank Interest	...		19	5
Allowed by Coal Merchants (2¼ per cent.)	...	1	5	8
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		£83	8	5

	Payments.	£	s.	d.
Coal	...	57	19	11
Clothing	...	24	11	4
Printing Cards	...		9	0
Deposits paid out	...		4	0
Balance in hand	...		4	2
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		£83	8	5

A subscription of £1 was received from the executor of the late Mrs. Lyon after the account

was closed, and this, with the balance of 4s. 2d. (as above), is carried on to the account of the present year.

Charities.—In last month's Magazine the quantity of bread given for Smith's Charity should have been stated as 87 gallons, or 184 loaves.

Church Collections.

- March 6, Sick and Poor.
 „ 13, Bishop's Pastoral Letter Fund.
 „ 20, Churchwardens' Fund.
 „ 25, Good Friday, Mission of the English Bishop in Jerusalem.
 „ 27, Easter Day, Choir Fund.

Preachers on Friday Evenings,

- March 4, Rev. J. P. Dyer, Rector of Crowmarsh.
 „ 11, Rev. J. R. Pendlebury, Rector of Newington.
 „ 18, Rev. A. Simmons, Rector of S. Leonard's, Wallingford.

Holy Week.—We hope to have our usual Services in the Holy Week. Daily, Morning Prayers at 11, Evensong with Address at 7; also on Maundy Thursday Holy Communion at 8 a.m. On Good Friday, in addition to the Services at 11 and 7, Litany at 8 a.m., and Hymns and Addresses on the Seven Words from the Cross from 2 to 4 p.m.

Easter Day.—Holy Communion at 8 a.m. and at midday.

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Soup Kitchen.—The distribution of soup took place each week, with one exception, from January 6th to March 17th. The following are the accounts :—

Receipts.		£	s.	d.
Balance from 1909	... ..	...	2	4
Subscriptions of Committee	... ..	...	1	7
Contributions collected	... ..	...	4	9
Half-pence paid	... ..	...	2	6
		£8	5	10
Expenditure.		£	s.	d.
Meat	... ..	...	3	7
Peas and grocery	... ..	...	2	10
Mrs. Aldridge	... ..	...	1	10
Fuel	... ..	...	3	2
Soup stick	... ..	...		6
Mr. West. placing and removing copper	... ..	...	8	6
Balance in hand	... ..	...	5	10
		£8	5	10

Messrs. Weedon kindly contributed 5 cwt. of coal.

Coal Club, etc.—In the accounts published in last month's magazine the name of Mr. Archer was accidentally omitted among the subscribers of 10/-. The statement of the total was correct.

Bishop of Oxford's Fund.—The amount collected on Sunday, March 13th, in response to the Bishop's Pastoral Letter, was £6 7s. 2d.

Lent Services.—Sermons were preached on the Friday evenings during Lent by the Clergy whose names were announced in the magazine, except that illness unfortunately prevented Canon Cruttwell from coming on February 18th, when the Rev. A. D. M. Bidlake very kindly took his place. It is a matter of great thankfulness that the attendance at these services has been considerably larger than in recent years.

Cricket.—A meeting of the Committee of the Cricket Club, followed by a general meeting, was held on Friday, March 18th. The Vicar was re-elected President; Capt. Oakes was elected Vice-President; Mr. Stevenson, Captain; Mr. R. C. Hatt, Vice-Captain.

Organ Recital.—We hope to have a recital in Church for the benefit of the Organ Fund, probably on the last Wednesday in April, by Mr. Arthur Peate, Fellow of the Royal College of Organists and Organist of Cuddesdon College.

In Memoriam.—Mrs. Smith, our oldest inhabitant, who had completed her 92nd year and had survived her husband nearly thirty years, passed away very suddenly on Sunday morning, March 6th, respected by all who knew her. It was the close of a humble Christian life, lived in the fear of God and simple faith in the Saviour's grace.

Baptisms.

March 1st, Frank Smith (Benson.)
 " 6th, Arthur Edward Town (Benson).
 " 20th, Rhoda Ethel Beckley (Preston Crow-marsh).

Burials.

March 5th, Harry Champion (Wallingford Union Workhouse), aged 45.
 " 10th, Elizabeth Smith (Benson), aged 93.

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The Funeral of the King.—It must be briefly recorded that the authorised Memorial Services were held on Friday, May 20th. The Holy Communion was at 8 o'clock. The second special service, at noon, was attended by a large number of our parishioners. After the Litany, the hymn "Now the labourer's task is o'er," followed; the opening sentences of the Burial Service, Psalm xc., and the anthems, "Man that is born of a woman," etc., were chanted to simple tones; and at the conclusion of the special prayers the hymn, "O God, our help in ages past," was sung. Considerable pains were taken by the choir, and the service was felt to be deeply impressive. It was evident that the national grief had touched the heart of our village. The ringers gave a muffled peal at half-past eleven.

Concert.—We were unable to record last month the very successful entertainment which took place on Tuesday evening, April 5th, in aid of the funds of the Young Men's Institute. It included pianoforte solos by Mrs. Chamberlain, songs by Mrs. Oakes, duets by Mrs. Boorne and Mr. H. Morris, recitations by Miss Maude Field of Cholsey and Miss Potter, and songs by Mr. Cuthbert Field (who had arranged the concert) and Mr. Percy Turner. The nett proceeds were £3 0s. 4d., which places the Institute out of debt and leaves a balance in hand.

Men's Club.—The experience of the past winter has proved that a reading-room for men and a room for the amusements of the younger lads can no longer be combined. It has therefore been decided to let the Institute continue to serve the latter purpose and to provide a club-room elsewhere for those who are not under seventeen years of age. Captain Oakes has taken the matter up very zealously, with the result that a representative Committee has been formed and the house known as Crossways has been secured. The Club will be inaugurated there on Wednesday, June 22nd, and will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., except on Sundays, when it will be open for short periods after noon and at night. We trust that the new

venture will serve a useful and much-needed purpose.

Organ Recital.—We were very grateful to Mr. Arthur Peat, F.R.C.O., the Organist of Cuddesdon College, for the beautiful and varied Organ Recital which he gave us on St. Mark's Day. There was an additional attraction in the vocal solos by Mr. Andrew Bannister, and the choir sang excellently the two hymns, "Angel voices," and "Saviour, again to Thy dear Name." The numbers present were considerable, but many were prevented by the stormy weather. The collection amounted to £2 3s. 8d., which, after payment of 10s. 6d. for printing and other expenses, left a balance of £1 13s. 2d. for the Organ Fund.

Home Missions.—The following amounts have been contributed to the Society for Providing Additional Curates:—Collections on Sunday, May 8th, £6 5s.; Mrs. Pulley, donation, 21s.; Misses Ruck-Keene, box, £5 10s. 6d.

Baptism.

May 15th, Kathleen Mary Eason (Cholsey).

Burial.

May 14th, John Vaughan, aged 77 years.

interest; to all of which a hearty response of acclamation was accorded.

Cricket.—The Benson Cricket Club is to be congratulated on having started this summer with renewed vigour and good promise. They were winners at Berrick in the first match, May 14th; they were well on their way to victory at Dorchester when the match was stopped by violent rain, May 21st; and they do not mean to be discouraged by defeats which occurred in playing against Wallingford Post Office, Warborough, Baldon, and North Stoke. An anonymous donor has most generously presented the Club with twenty cricket suits: Captain Oakes has given two bats; and Mr. Franklin has very kindly allowed the members to practise three times a week in his meadow.

Baptisms.

June 5, Charles Henry Stevens.
 „ 19, Arthur Charles Bonner.

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Choir Festival.—Our Choir had a very pleasant visit to Thame on Thursday, June 16th, for the Festival, for which they had been very carefully prepared by Mr. Paling Smith. They were twenty in number; and some of the school-teachers and other ladies, who had taken part in the practices, joined the party. Evensong in the grand old Church was well rendered by the associated Choirs; an excellent tea was provided in the Town Hall; and the perfect weather and the beauty of the country made the long drive very enjoyable.

Benson and District Social Club.—On Wednesday, June 22nd, the new Club was opened at Crossways in accordance with the announcement in the last Magazine. The opening ceremony was performed at 4 o'clock by Miss Ruck-Keene, who also generously provided a bountiful tea for the members and their friends. Captain Oakes, after hoisting the Union Jack, presented Miss Ruck-Keene with a silver key on behalf of the Committee. Mr. Morris, speaking in front of the building, expressed the hope that the Club might be successful and might promote the social happiness of the village, and also proposed thanks to Miss Ruck-Keene for the large share that she had taken in the matter, to Captain Oakes, the President of the Club, for all the pains and energy that he has expended in founding it, and to Mr. William Ball for the active part that he takes in promoting its

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The School.—The General Diocesan Inspector, now Bishop of Nyasaland, visited the school on Friday, July 15th. It will suffice to say that his Report speaks of the work of the school as very good, and the written work of the upper class and the intelligence and good answers of the higher Infants' class are mentioned with special commendation. Hilda Tims receives the Prize, and Certificates of Merit are awarded to Leslie Talbot, Percy Ward, Annie Gardner, Frederick Hutchings, Annie Cherrill, Thomas Biggs and Vivienne Giles. The following were commended:—Arthur Tims, Emily Barry, Joseph Chapman, Margaret Wells, Harold Cook, Edward Corby, Edwin Selwood, Lily Skinner, Millicent Austin, Phyllis Macqueen, John Smith, William Gurney, Charles Stevens, Victor Roche, Nellie Lane, Bessie Jones, Herbert Biggs, Cuthbert Sandall, Charles Witney, Miranda West, Iris Roche.

The collections for the Archbishop's Western Canada Fund on Sunday, June 26th, amounted to £3 4s. 5d.

Library.—A large addition of books, chiefly the gift of one generous donor, has lately been made to the library of the Young Men's Institute, and the Committee have decided to allow the use of the books to all persons over the age of 15 years for a very trifling payment. The superintendence of the library has been most kindly undertaken by two ladies, Miss Lane, of Castle Square, being Honorary Secretary, and Miss Maynard Honorary Librarian. Those who wish to borrow books can apply for them at the room of the Institute on Tuesday evenings between 7 and 8 o'clock.

Baptisms.

- July 16th, George Ernest Whiteman.
- „ 16th, Charles Henry Green.
- „ 18th, Mary May Frewen.

Marriage.

July 11th, at St. Peter's, Ipswich, John George Wood, of Benson, and Frederica Lake, of Ipswich.

Burial.

July 15th, Eliza Spyer (Benson).

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Horticultural Society.—The cold weather and a variety of circumstances prevented our annual Flower Show from being as successful as we could have wished it to be. It was held on Wednesday, July 27th, in the grounds of Colne House by the kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Courtis. The entries fell somewhat short of those of previous years, but the exhibits of vegetables were excellent, and some good fruit was shown and also some beautiful flowers. Good sports were organised and attracted many competitors. For the Baby Show there were eleven entries, and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Freeborn of Clifton Hampden very kindly came to act as judges. They assigned the first prize to Vera Eveline Jones (aged 8 months), the second to George Ernest Whiteman (1 month), the third to William Witney (9 months), and consolation prizes to Wilfrid Dix (2 months), William John Lane (5 months), Arthur Charles Bonner (8 months), and Edward Roberts (10 months). It is sad to have to record the death of the first little prize-winner from pneumonia a fortnight later.

Sunday School.—Our children's treat on Wednesday, August 3rd, passed off very pleasantly and the weather favoured us very happily. After a Service of ten minutes in Church and an early tea in the Vicarage garden there were games of various kinds in Mr. Stevenson's meadow at Crowmarsh, and we are grateful to him for allowing us to use it. Mr. Teague and Mr. Jones of Dorchester College, whose help in the Sunday School is most valuable to us, put spirit and energy into the boys' games and contributed very largely to make the treat as successful as it was.

Our best wishes and prayers for God-speed in their work must go with Mr. Higgitt and Mr. Baker, who helped zealously in our Sunday School last year and previously. The former was recently ordained by the Bishop of Peterborough for Mission work in Northampton, and the latter is now returning to the Central African Mission, where he has already worked as a layman and is about to be ordained by the Bishop of Zanzibar.

Church Music.—Several influential worshippers in our Church have expressed a strong desire that

our plain-song chants should be discontinued and the more popular form introduced. It is urged that the dignity and solemnity of the gregorian tones, which many of us appreciate highly, does not appeal to the popular sentiment; that very few of the congregation now join in them; that they require at least as much careful practice as is needed for harmonised music, and therefore should not be attempted by a choir whose members cannot undertake such regular practice. On the other hand, it has happened frequently, both this year and in previous years, that strangers visiting Benson have expressed their great satisfaction at finding that we use gregorian chants and sing them creditably; and while our music without more constant practice can never be as we would wish it to be, many of us prefer imperfect plain-song to imperfect harmonised chants. All will agree that the usage of more than forty years should not be changed hastily or without full consideration. The Vicar will therefore be glad to receive expressions of opinion on either side from those who attend the Church.

Baptisms.

July 24th, Charles Donald Robertson (Roke).

July 25th, Wilfrid Dix (Benson).

August 21st, Evelyn Marjorie Short (Reading).

Marriage.

August 5th, Frederick Henry Joplin, of Fulham, and Emily Lockett, of Benson.

Burial.

August 14th, Vera Eveline Jones, aged 8 months.

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Church Music.—The Vicar has received replies from several representative persons among those who attend the Church, in reference to the question of a change in our system of chants. They have said, with a practical unanimity which was very unexpected, that they themselves are well satisfied with our Gregorian chants and are pleased with the way in which our choir sing them, and they would not wish for a change, but as they know that the wishes of the majority are on the other side they think that the change ought to be made. From the same motive, no doubt, those to whom the change will involve a grave disappointment have kept silence. This decided expression of opinion seems to leave no alternative, and it only remains to ask who will supply us with copies of a new Psalter, presumably the "Cathedral Psalter." We shall need fourteen treble copies and the same number of the full score.

Churchwarden Wood. Several of our parishioners have combined to make a present to Mr. Charles Allen Wood, now that he has left the parish, in testimony of their appreciation of the good work that he did among us in his zealous care for the Church, and in the improvements that he effected in its appearance, during his tenure of the office of Churchwarden. The testimonial, for which funds were collected by Mr. Cuthbert Field, took the form of a silver-plated coffee-pot, the balance being spent on a picture. Mr. Wood writes from his new address (Chelveston, Kingsbridge Road, Newbury), expressing very heartily his thanks for the unexpected gifts, and adding that for what he did in connection with Benson Church he had been repaid by the pleasure of doing it and by the kindly way in which he had always been received by the parishioners, especially when he had to ask for money.

Sunday School.—On Thursday, August 8th, a number of our boys, chiefly those of the Sunday School, were most kindly invited by their teachers from Dorchester College to play cricket with their Dorchester boys. The latter were the winners by seven runs with five wickets to fall; but the Benson boys were entertained at tea in the Missionary College, and after Evensong in the Abbey Church they walked home feeling that in spite of their defeat they had enjoyed a pleasant and happy visit.

Benson Regatta.—Space only admits a brief notice of the fact that a Regatta took place for the

first time at Benson on Wednesday, September 7th. It was organised by Captain Oakes and the Benson and District Club and proved entirely successful, the fine reach of the river above the wharf being admirably suited for the purpose. A series of skiff races, a plate race, a tug-of-war, and two swimming matches afforded a good afternoon's amusement. A variety of excellent prizes were distributed at the close by Mrs. Oakes.

Cricket Match—The Harvest Home Cricket Match of Married *versus* Single, preceded by a bountiful luncheon, took place on Saturday, Sept. 17th, on Mr. Stevenson's very kind invitation. A good match was played, the Single making an excellent start, but the Married winning eventually by six runs and two wickets. Mr. Stevenson's return among us, after several weeks absence through indisposition, was very heartily welcomed.

The School.—At the triennial election of Foundation Managers, held on Saturday, August 27th, Mr. Cozens and Captain Oakes were re-appointed. Mr. Morris, who has done us most helpful service for eight years, had expressed a wish that a younger man might now be chosen in his place; and Mr. Chamberlain was elected.

The area of the playground has long been considered insufficient for the requirements of the school, and the need has now been met by the purchase of half an acre of the meadow adjoining the 'Horse Shoes,' which St. John's College were willing to sell.

The school having been closed for three additional weeks on account of whooping cough, it is hoped that nothing will now prevent the re-opening on Monday, October 3rd.

Baptisms.

August 28th, Lawrence Butcher.

September 18th, Gilbert Charles Chainey.

Burials.

August 23rd, John Edward Sherwood, aged 1 year.

August 30th, Elizabeth Richens, aged 79 years.

August 31st, George Bessant Mallam, aged 67 years.

September 10th, George Ernest Whiteman, aged 3 months.

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The School.—Accounts of the Foundation Managers for the year ending June 30, 1910 :—

Receipts.		£	s.	d.
Balance from previous year ...	...	8	18	4
Subscriptions for 1909 received late ...	...		12	6
Subscriptions (2 at £5 ; 1 at £2 ; 1 at 21/- ; 2 at £1 ; 2 at 10/- ; 2 at 5/- ; 19 at 2/6 ...	...	18	18	6
Additional Donations ...	...	2	1	0
Betton's Charity ...	...	10	0	0
Rent of house ...	...	9	5	0
„ garden (3 years) ...	...		15	0
Roke Gardens ...	...	1	5	0
Use of Schoolroom ...	...	1	8	6
		<hr/>		
		£53	3	10
Expenditure.		£	s.	d.
Repairs of School and Playground ...	...	10	19	5
„ School House ...	...	2	15	0
Enlargement of window ...	...	10	6	6
Rates, Taxes and Insurance ...	...	4	11	7
Diocesan Inspection Fund (2 years)* ...	...		10	0
Auditor and sundry expenses ...	...		18	6
Balance carried on † ...	...	23	2	10
		<hr/>		
		£53	3	10

*This payment, due before the close of each school year, was omitted one year by oversight and has since been paid late. The mistake is now rectified.

†The amount of this balance has since been spent in payments for repairs and for the purchase of the additional ground.

Accounts of Sunday School.—Receipts :—Roke Garden Rents. 17s. 3d. ; Donations, 12s. 10d. Total, £1 19s. 1d. Expenditure :—County Committee, for fuel, 13s. 9d. ; lighting fires, 10s. ; Star Registers and post, 6s. 4d. Total, £1 10s. 1d.

Roke Gardens.—Rents received, £3. Expenditure : Rates, Taxes and post, 17s. 9d. ; Day School (as above), £1 5s. ; Sunday School (as above), 17s. 3d. Total, £3.

Harvest Thanksgiving.—The special services in thanksgiving for the Harvest commenced with Evensong on Michaelmas Eve at 7 o'clock. The service was well sung by the choir, the Canticles being those which were used at the Choral Festival at Thame in July, and the Anthem the late Rev. E. V. Hall's, "Thou, O God, art praised in Sion" (Ps. lxxv.) The Rev. Victor L. Whitechurch, Vicar of Blewbury, preached a sermon which made a considerable impression from the words 'The Harvest of the Earth' (Rev. xiv., 15), dwelling upon the thought of Character as the harvest of human life which is to be gathered in for God. The Collections at this Service and at Holy Communion the next morning, amounting together to

£3 10s. 2d., were for the Radcliffe Infirmary. On the following Sunday the amount was £3 1s. for the Cottage Hospital at Wallingford.

The New Churchwarden.—At a vestry meeting duly convened on Thursday, October 6th, the Vicar nominated Mr. William Brackley Smith to serve as Churchwarden for the remainder of the current year in the place of Mr. Charles Allen Wood, who has resigned the office on leaving the parish.

The Young Lads' Institute was re-opened on Wednesday, October 5th, Mr. Hailey being appointed president for the year. A more formal opening took place on the following Saturday, when the Vicar gave the boys a short address on their duties as members. A few words of good advice were added by Mr. Pettit, and afterwards by Mr. Middleton, who also gave some excellent songs. As the Social Club now supplies the needs of most of the older persons who formerly belonged to the Institute, the age for membership has been extended to include boys of 13 years.

Street Lamps.—The Lighting Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. Morris has decided to remove two of the lamps to more useful positions, and we hope that our streets will be lighted before this Magazine appears. How long this will continue must depend upon the amount of subscriptions. Mr. J. G. Wood is Secretary to the Committee in place of Mr. Gray, through whose energy the work has been carried out for the last few years.

Baptisms.

- Sept. 26, Walter Newton Chamberlain (Crowmarsh Battle).
- Oct. 9. George Alfred Austen (Benson).
- „ „ Alexander George Moffatt (Benson Lock).
- „ 15, Elsie Elizabeth Lovegrove (Benson).

Marriages.

- Oct. 3, Albert Charles Hester & Emily Burborough, both of Turners Court.
- Oct. 15, George Joseph Lane and Elizabeth Alice Payne, both of Benson.

Burial.

- Oct. 4, James Holloway (Benson), aged 76.

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Advent Services.—Matins on Wednesdays and Fridays at 11; other days at 10. Evensong on Fridays with short Address at 7: other days at 5. The first Friday will be observed as in previous years as the day of Special Intercession for the Missions of the Church.

The Mothers' Meetings have been resumed at the Vicarage, and Mrs. Field will be glad to receive the names of any others who would like to join them.

The King's Messengers' meetings will be resumed for boys on Saturday, December 3rd, and for girls December the 10th, to be continued on the first and second Saturdays of each month.

The Parish Church.—Some large blocks of wrought freestone in the north-east angle of the old malthouse at Preston Crowmarsh had for many years caught the eye of the antiquary; for though no sculpture or moulding was visible it was obvious that they must have been taken from some older and more important building. When the malthouse was recently demolished the character of these stones appeared. The most interesting of them is the mutilated cap of an angle-shaft from an Early English window of about the year 1200, like those on the outside of the east window in the south aisle of the Church. The tower of the Church was rebuilt and the aisles were shortened at the west in 1780, and the malthouse was a building of the same period. Thus there can be little doubt that the stone which has been described was part of the west window of one of the aisles. Another stone has a good moulding of the same period. Others have mouldings of the fourteenth century, similar to those of the south doorway, and may well have belonged to the opposite doorway of the north aisle which is of that date; for this was destroyed and the present window was substituted when the other alterations were made. Another stone formed the upper angle of a square-headed window, showing half of the head of a pointed light, not earlier than the end of the fifteenth century; and this is of special interest, because it corresponds with nothing that remains in the Church, and therefore in all probability it came from the old tower, of which no description or record remains. We only know, from the accounts of the rebuilding, that there was a tower previously and that it was not entirely taken down; so that part of its west front must be incorporated in that of the new tower. It was therefore of very small dimensions, as may be proved by measuring out the original size of the two western aisles of the nave which are now partly built up. Mr. Faber has very kindly presented the best of these stones to the Church that they may be preserved as interesting memorials of the past.

We are further indebted to Mr. Faber for the gift of a quantity of bricks of an old type, taken from his demolished cottages, to be used for the repairs of the picturesque piers at the entrance of the Churchyard. These piers have suffered disfigurement in the past by being mended with common modern bricks, but we shall now be able to carry out a more worthy restoration of them.

Baptism.

October 23, John Edward Loader (Benson).

Burial.

November 21, William Polley (Crowmarsh Battle), aged 67.